



18TH eHEALTH NETWORK, 12-13 NOVEMBER 2020, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

COVER NOTE

3.2 View of the German Presidency of the EU Council on the European Health Data Space

1. Issue at stake

On 16 July 2020, the health ministers of the EU met for the Informal Meeting (digital format) under the Germany's Presidency of the Council of the EU. The Commission, experts from relevant EU agencies and representatives of the EFTA states and WHO EURO attended. The discussions were moderated by the German Federal Minister of Health, Jens Spahn, in the presence of Germany's trio presidency partners – Portuguese Minister of Health, Marta Temido and Slovenian Minister of Health, Tomaž Gantar – both of whom were on location in Berlin.

2. Summary

The European health data space (EHDS) is a project of major significance for the Germany's Presidency of the Council of the EU and beyond. The EHDS aims to establish a common understanding of values and legal basis for access to and exchange of health data in Europe. The Presidency is firmly committed to advancing this project in the interest of all of the EU's citizens.

Together with the other Member States, the Presidency is examining the measures proposed by the EU expert workshops, which took place from January to June 2020, and taking into account possible Council conclusions.

Improvements of the processing of health data, with a view to digitalisation, big data and artificial intelligence in the field of health, will be part of the high-level digital conference "Digital Health 2020 - EU on the Move" on 11 November 2020.

The Presidency supports the Commission to identify legislative and non-legislative action, including a legislative proposal on European Health Data Space in 2021, and to strengthen and build up EU-wide infrastructures, both for cross-border exchange of patients data and for secondary use of health data.

The Presidency will be collaborating closely with the Commission, Member States and other national authorities involved in the Joint Action on the European Health Data Space (TEHDAS), proposing governance options for the secondary use of health data at the EU level and fostering collaboration of Member States within concrete use cases. Furthermore, the Presidency supports the development of tailored European Codes of Conduct for specific categories of data by the respective actors in order to increase legal certainty and facilitate data protection compliant secondary data use within the European Health Data Space.

3. Format of procedure in the meeting

For information